

1971

In Memoriam

FORMER SENATORS

Robert G. Johnson

John Pattison, Sr.

Clifford Lofvegren

Harold R. Popp

Roy E. Wiseth

State of Minnesota

Senate Chambers

Wednesday, March 31, 1971

3:00 o'clock p.m.

SENATE CHAMBER

MEMORIAL SERVICES

—for—

Former Senators

ROBERT G. JOHNSON JOHN PATTISON, SR.

CLIFFORD LOFVEGREN HAROLD R. POPP

ROY E. WISETH

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

Introduced by Mr. Holmquist, for the Committee on Rules and Administration, on March 8, 1971.

A SENATE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR DECEASED FORMER SENATORS

Whereas, the Almighty God has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to remove from our midst by death, since the last session, the following persons who were former members of the Minnesota State Senate: The Honorable Robert G. Johnson, The Honorable Clifford Lofvegren, The Honorable John Pattison, Sr., The Honorable Harold R. Popp, and The Honorable Roy E. Wiseth, and

Whereas, the high character and public service of these men merit an expression of respect and veneration for their memory, now, therefore

Be It Resolved, that the President of the Senate be and he is hereby directed to appoint a committee of five members of the Senate who shall arrange for and report such resolutions and memorial exercises as in the judgment of the committee will fittingly express the respect and sentiment which the members of the Senate feel for the memory of their late fellow members.

Pursuant to the foregoing resolution, the President appointed the following members as a committee on resolutions and memorial exercises:

Messrs. Robert J. Brown, Chairman, Paul Overgaard, George Perpich, Victor Jude and George Pillsbury.

Mr. Brown moved, pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 4, adopted on March 8, 1971, that the rules of the Senate be so far suspended, that the memorial services for deceased Senators be made a Special Order of Business for Wednesday, March 31, 1971, at 3:00 o'clock P.M. Which motion prevailed.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SPECIAL ORDER

Wednesday, March 31, 1971

Three o'clock P.M.

The President announced the order of business to be memorial services set pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 4, adopted on March 8, 1971, in honor of Former Senators: Robert G. Johnson, Clifford Lofvegren, John Pattison, Sr., Harold R. Popp, and Roy E. Wiseth.

Mr. Brown imposed a call of the Senate.

The following Senators answered to their names:

Anderson, E. J.	Kalina
Anderson, J. C.	Kirchner
Anderson, J. T.	Krieger
Arnold	Larson
Ashbach	Laufenburger
Benson	Mammenga
Bergerud	McCarty
Blatz	McCutcheon
Borden	Novak
Brown	Nyquist
Chenoweth	Ogdahl
Coleman	Olson, A. G.
Conzemius	Olson, H. D.
Davies	Olson, J. L.
Dosland	O'Neill
Doty	Overgaard
Frederick	Palmer
Gage	Parish
Gearty	Perpich, A. J.
Glewwe	Perpich, G.
Gustafson	Pillsbury
Hansen, Baldy	Popham
Hansen, Mel	Renneke
Hansen, N. W.	Schrom
Holmquist	Sinclair
Holsten	Tennessee
Hughes, J. M.	Thorup
Hughes, Keith	Ukkelberg
Jensen, C. A.	Wegener
Jensen, V. K.	Willet
Josefson	Wolfe
Jude	

The Sergeant-at-Arms was instructed to bring in the absent members.

Prayer by Reverend Leman Olsenius, Chaplain of the Senate.

O Living God, Thou art the source of our life, and Thou wilt be the destiny of our pilgrimage. Age, after age, the living have trusted in Thee and have found, of Thy mercy there is no end. Generation after generation has passed away within Thy Providence, and have entered in upon that eternal life of light and love, which Thou hast promised to those whose trust is in Thee. As more and more of our loved ones gather in that better place, may we look forward to that place and to those who share that life with us, with eager hearts.

We thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast called us to remember our colleagues who have been summoned to that life where age shall not weary nor the years condemn. For their lasting contributions which they have made, for the labor given our great State, for the gentleness of their character, for the breadth of their sympathies, for their power of their convictions, for their patience and courage, for their genius for friendship, their loyalty to a great tradition, all of which has made this world and this State richer, we thank Thee, O God. Bless these loved ones who are gathered here in this hour and who mourn their passing. We pray Thou wouldst surround them with Thy love and mercy. May we return from this moment, this memorial service, to our daily tasks, strengthened and encouraged by the remembrance that Thou art the God of our fathers, Whose faithfulness to Thy people is from everlasting to everlasting.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublesome life until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in Thy great mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at last through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Washington County, Mr. Brown, Chairman, Special Committee on Memorials, who addressed the Senate on behalf of the Memorial Committee, as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

By Special Order of this Senate, now in its 67th Session, and in accordance with a very fitting and long standing tradition, this hour has been set apart in recognition of the public service of former members of the Minnesota Senate, who have since our last session, departed this life and entered the portals of the Great Beyond.

We do this to show our respect for those former members whose voices are stilled; to express our sympathy to their loved ones; and in recognition of their public service.

This Memorial observance is in their honor.

It is the Senate's final tribute to:

Senator Robert G. Johnson

Senator Clifford Lofvegren

Senator John Pattison, Sr.

Senator Harold R. Popp

Senator Roy E. Wiseth

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Kandiyohi and Swift Counties, Mr. Olson, A. G., who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

It is with respect and honor that I today pay tribute to the memory of The Honorable Robert G. Johnson, a former member of this body, who passed away on April 7, 1969, in Willmar, at the age of 44 years.

Robert George Johnson was born March 24, 1925 in Minneapolis. He was raised in the Village of Hector in Renville County, where his father operated a hardware store. Upon graduation from the Hector Public Schools, Senator Johnson enrolled in a course of pre-medical study at the University of Minnesota. His education was interrupted by military service as a Naval aviator from 1943 to 1946. At the conclusion of his military service, Senator Johnson returned to study law at the University of Minnesota, where he received the B. B. L. degree in 1948 and the L. L. B. in 1949.

Senator Johnson was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1966, representing the 23rd district, including Kandiyohi and Swift Counties. He began his law career in Olivia, where he was associated with the late Leo Lauerman from 1949 to 1958. From 1958 until his death Senator Johnson practiced law in Willmar as the senior member of the firm of Johnson, Schmidt and Thompson.

Senator Johnson served his profession and his community in many capacities including: President of the Kandiyohi County Bar Association; Director of the University of Minnesota Law School Alumni Association; Willmar School Board; Scholarship Chairman for the Kandiyohi County Chapter, National Foundation—March of Dimes and a member of the Vestry Board of St. Lukes Episcopal Church in Willmar. He was a member of the American Legion, Masons, Elks and Kiwanis Clubs. He, without question, selflessly served his local community, as well as his state, as a man of unquestionable integrity and dedication. Admired and respected by his friends and colleagues, he was above all a strong family man, a devoted husband and father.

At the time of his death Senator Johnson was survived by his wife, the former Dorothy Warner of Minneapolis, whom he married in 1949. He was also survived by four sons: Peter 17, Thomas 16, Charles 14, and Christopher 10; two daughters, Jane 12 and Ann 7; his mother, Mrs. Gladys Johnson of Hector, Minnesota; a brother, Russell of Hutchinson; and a sister, Mrs. Gunnar Johansen of Blue Mound, Wisconsin. To the family we extend our sincere sympathy.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Todd, Douglas and Wadena Counties, Mr. Wegener, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

The tradition of setting aside quiet moments in the Minnesota State Senate to remember men who have served in the important work of self-government is fitting and proper. This gives us an opportunity to express our appreciation for work faithfully discharged. Today I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of The Honorable Clifford Lofvegren, a former member of this body who passed away at his home in Alexandria on April 22, 1969.

Mr. Lofvegren served as a member of the Minnesota State Senate from 1949 until 1967 representing the 25th district which included Douglas and Pope Counties. During his 18 years of legislative service he was chairman of the Game and Fish Committee and served on Agriculture, Commerce, Finance, Public Highways, Public Welfare and Rules. In the interim he was an active member of the Legislative Research Committee and the Minnesota Outdoor Resources Commission.

Senator Lofvegren was born in Little Cedar, Iowa, May 10, 1903. He moved to Alexandria in 1913 where he attended public school. He owned and operated a cafe for 17 years but always maintained a keen interest in farming. In 1932, realizing a life-long ambition, he went into farming—buying and selling of livestock. He was also a very popular auctioneer in central Minnesota, owning and operating the Alexandria Livestock Pavilion.

Senator Lofvegren is survived by his wife, Gladys, whom he married June 20, 1925, and one daughter, Kathryn, both of Alexandria.

Senator Lofvegren had many friends. He was extremely interested and concerned about rural Minnesota. Those who knew him well will remember him saying many times "people are my hobby." One of his major legislative concerns was the preservation of our natural resources. He was always cheerful and diligent and will long be remembered by his colleagues and constituents as an enthusiastic and dedicated public servant.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Stearns, Benton and Sherburne Counties, Mr. Hughes, K., who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

It is my privilege today to commemorate the memory of a devoted public servant and distinguished private citizen, John B. Pattison, Sr.

Mr. Pattison was born in St. Cloud Township on December 25, 1876. He attended local schools and the University of Minnesota. He practiced law in the St. Cloud community from 1900 to the date of his retirement in 1962.

Mr. Pattison served four terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1917 to 1925, and one term in the Minnesota State Senate from 1931 to 1935, representing the 45th Legislative District. While his service in the Minnesota Senate was short-lived, it was none the less noteworthy. He was elected President Pro Tem in his freshman term and authored the first pension law for Minnesota public school teachers, and also authored the State Liquor Control Act.

He served in the 13th Minnesota Voluntary Infantry during the Spanish American War and helped organize the Minnesota Home Guard. He was the last surviving St. Cloud resident of the Spanish American War.

Mr. Pattison was active all of his life in the civic, fraternal and religious activities of his community. He served as City Attorney for the City of St. Cloud and was the first Commander of the St. Cloud Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 428. He held memberships in the Stearns and Minnesota Bar Associations, the Elks, and the Kiwanis International. In 1962 he was cited by Kiwanis International for outstanding public service to the St. Cloud community. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, St. Cloud.

It is interesting to note that he was one of the few living authorities on St. Cloud history and assisted Smithsonian Institution research writers and the Minnesota Historical Society in accumulating historical data about the St. Cloud area.

He married the former Anna Hartfiel in 1913 and his beloved spouse predeceased him in 1959. He is survived by three sons and a daughter, Mrs. Robert Morreim, Dr. Patrick B. Pattison and John B. Pattison, Jr. of St. Cloud, and Parker J. Pattison, of St. Paul.

With the passing of John B. Pattison, Sr., the St. Cloud community lost one of its great pioneers and one of its most distinguished citizens. Through his many years, he was counselor and friend to countless of our citizens. He gave unselfishly of his time and talents and left a rich heritage of public and private service.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Sibley, McLeod and Nicollet Counties, Mr. Renneke, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

It is with deep respect and honor that I pay tribute to the memory of The Honorable Harold R. Popp, my predecessor from District 15 and my good friend.

Senator Popp was unexpectedly taken from us on February 21, 1969, in a tragic automobile accident which also claimed the life of his devoted wife, Winifred.

Senator Harold Popp was born in Hutchinson, Minnesota, June 17, 1903. Graduating from Hutchinson High School, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He owned the Western Chemical Company before becoming owner of the Popp Rexall Drug Store in Hutchinson from 1938 to 1963, and had been active in the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Association. He was a former mayor of Hutchinson, Minnesota.

Senator Popp was a member and past master of Temple Lodge 59, AF and AM, and a member of Zuhrah Temple. He was a member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church.

On August 11, 1941, he was united in marriage to the former Winifred Ruth.

Senator Popp had been a member of the Minnesota State Senate since 1958. The many capacities in which he served included being chairman of the Elections and Reapportionment Committee and chairman of the Building Commission.

Survivors include his daughter, Susan, Mrs. Wayne Bowman of Omaha, Nebraska; two sisters, Mrs. Fred Bernhagen of Hutchinson and Mrs. Claude Sowden of Minneapolis; two brothers, Clifford and Howard of Hutchinson.

Senator Harold Popp was held in high esteem by all who knew him. His quiet, unassuming manner endeared him to the hearts of people in all walks of life. Our lives are the richer for being in this place when he passed our way.

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Marshall, Kittson and Roseau Counties, Mr. Sinclair, who offered the following tribute and addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests:

The Senate today is proud to honor the memory of former Senator Roy Edwin Wiseth.

Mr. Wiseth was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1954 and re-elected in 1958. He did not seek a third term. He served with distinction during his two terms having been a member of the committees on Agriculture, Dairy Products and Livestock, Markets and Marketing, Commerce, Game and Fish, and Local Government.

Senator Wiseth was active in the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and served on its State Executive Committee.

Roy Wiseth was born in Hatton, North Dakota, August 12, 1900. He lived and farmed in the Goodridge community of Pennington and Marshall Counties for sixty years. He was married November 25, 1923, to Ida Theresa Peterson. He died following a tractor accident August 11, 1969. Survivors are his wife Ida, four sons, Robert, Lloyd, and Kenneth of Goodridge, and Dean of St. Paul Park, and two daughters, Mrs. Bud Olson, Minnetonka, and Mrs. Sherman Grover, Goodridge.

Mr. Wiseth was for years a leader in the Farmers Union serving as its state President in 1950. He was a strong advocate of cooperatives and contributed to their development in Northern Minnesota. At the time of his death, he was President of Northern Cooperatives, Inc. in Wadena. He served on the board of the Farmers Coop. Grain and Seed Association of Thief River Falls from the date of its organization. He was on the State Farmers Home Administration Board, State Planning Commission, Production Credit Association, and Northwest Pellet Association. He also served on the Goodridge Retirement Homes Board. He was a member of the First Lutheran Church.

Throughout his lifetime, Roy gave of his time and energy to the development of the Goodridge community. Although a busy man, he always found time to help others with their problems. A man of strong convictions, he was admired and respected by all who knew him. A strong family man, Roy was a devoted husband and father.

Mr. Brown moved that the memorials and personal tributes as presented and read, be approved and spread upon the pages of the Journal of the Senate. Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Brown moved that the Secretary of the Senate be, and he is hereby, instructed to send enrolled copies of the memorials and personal tributes, as presented and read, to the widows of deceased Senators or their next of kin. Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Brown moved that as a further tribute to the memory of these former Senators that the Senate do now adjourn until 10:00 o'clock a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, April 1, 1971. Which motion prevailed.

George G. Goodwin
Secretary of the Senate